

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 TRSE-00
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-----040018 221031Z /21

O R 220945Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASS ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7918
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 4748

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT TU
SUBJ: INITIAL PUBLIC REACTION TO ECEVIT GOVERNMENT
REF: ANKARA 4713 (DTG 211247Z JUN 77)
1. REACTION TO PRESIDENT KORUTURK'S DECISION TO
APPROVE PRIMIN ECEVIT'S NEW GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY DIVIDED.
MOST OF THE PRESS, WHICH IS GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO ECEVIT
AND HAD BEEN ARGUING THAT THE ONLY LOGICAL GOVERNMENT WOULD
BE A ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT LED BY ECEVIT, HAS APPLAUDED
KORUTURK'S DECISION. FORMER PRIMIN DEMIREL, NATIONAL
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SALVATION PARTY (NSP) CHAIRMAN ERBAKAN, NATIONALIST ACTION
PARTY (NAP) CHAIRMAN TURKES AND THE CONSERVATIVE PRESS HAVE
REACTED WITH ANGER. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, DEMIREL REFUSED
TO RECEIVE A TELEPHONE CALL FROM ECEVIT MID-AFTERNOON. IN
EXPLANATION DEMIREL LEFT AN UNSINGED NOTE ON HIS DESK SAYING
THAT HE HAD CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED THE FORMATION OF A
GOVERNMENT WHICH COULD NOT WIN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AND THEREFORE

HE FELT NO NECESSITY TO SPEAK TO THE HEAD OF THAT GOVERNMENT. THE JP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED A STATEMENT CALLING THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION INCOMPATIBLE WITH DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY PRINCIPLES. THE STATEMENT ASSERTED THAT NO ONE HAD THE AUTHORITY TO GIVE ECEVIT THE POWER WHICH HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO WIN IN THE ELECTIONS. IN CONCLUSION, THE STATEMENT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT PARLIAMENT WOULD REJECT THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT AND THAT " IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME, THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANKAYA (THE LOCATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S PALACE) WILL BE REPLACED BY GOVERNMENTS OF THE PARLIAMENT."

2. THE NSP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO RELEASED A STATEMENT CLAIMING THE CONSTITUTION HAD BEEN FLAGRANTLY VIOLATED BY THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION. THE NSP ALSO SAID THAT NOT ONLY WAS THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION IMPROPER BUT THE ACTIONS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO BE ILLEGITIMATE.

3. NAP CHAIRMAN TURKES TOLD THE PRESS IT WAS WRONG FOR THE PRESIDENT TO HAVE ENDORSED THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD BEEN FORMED IN CONTRAVENTION OF DEMOCRATIC TRADITION. TURKES SAID THAT THE GENEROUS TREATMENT THE PRESIDENT HAD BESTOWED UPON ECEVIT WAS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE IMPARTIALITY WITH WHICH HE HAD TREATED THE NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT.

4. ECEVIT TOLD HIS PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MORNING OF JUNE 21 (PRIOR TO THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK AT WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT WAS APPROVED) THAT HE HAD NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO

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GAIN ALL OF THE SUPPORT NEEDED FOR A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, BUT THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT HE COULD DO SO. REGARDLESS, HE SAID, ALTHOUGH THE JP, THE NSP AND THE NAP COMBINED POSSESSED ENOUGH VOTES TO KEEP HIS GOVERNMENT FROM GAINING A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, THIS UNITY WAS A NEGATIVE UNITY, NOT A POSITIVE ONE. HE THEREFORE DID NOT BELIEVE THOSE THREE PARTIES COULD COME AS CLOSE TO FORMING A GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD WIN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AS HE COULD.

5. ECEVIT HELD HIS FIRST CABINET MEETING EVENING OF JUNE 21. AT THE MEETING ECEVIT SAID THAT THE PRIORITY TASK OF HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TO RESTORE DOMESTIC PEACE. IN THAT REGARD, A MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR TODAY OF THE INTERESTED CABINET MEMBERS UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MINISTER OF STATE ORHAN EYUBOGLU.

6. COMMENT: WITH THE INSTALLATION OF THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT, TURKEY'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL CRISIS HAS PASSED FROM ONE STAGE TO ANOTHER, BUT IS NOT NECESSARILY ANY CLOSER TO SOLUTION. THE BITTERNESS OF THE ATTACKS ON PRESIDENT KORUTURK IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE HERETOFORE KORUTURK HAS MANAGED TO MAINTAIN HIMSELF ABOVE PARTISAN STRIFE AND HAS BEEN A SYMBOL OF NATIONAL UNITY. THE CHALLENGE TO THE LEGALITY OF HIS ACTIONS, IF FOLLOWED BY EFFECTIVE PARTY

DISCIPLINE IN THE JP, NSP AND NAP AND A DEFEAT OF THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT ON THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, PRESIDENT KORUTURK IS A PROUD AND CONSCIENTIOUS MAN AND HE COULD WELL REACT BY RESIGNING (AS HE HAS THREATENED TO DO IN REACTION TO LESS IMPORTANT CHALLENGES IN THE PAST).

7. AT THIS POINT, IT IS IMPOSIBLE TO PREDICT WHETHER PRIMIN ECEVIT WILL BE ABLE TO WIN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. THE NEXT TEN DAYS WILL BE FILLED WITH POLITICAL MANEUVERING AND RUMORS OF EVERY SORT OF ATTEMPT TO PRESSURE VARIOUS DEPUTIES TO VOTE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. IN THE END, ECEVIT (AND APPARENTLY PRESIDENT KORUTURK) HOPES THAT A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF DEPUTIES FROM THE OPPOSITION PARTIES WILL BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE THEIR SHORT TERM POLITICAL INTERESTS, FORMING WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO BE THE GREATER NATIONAL INTEREST, IN
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AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT AT THIS CRUCIAL PERIOD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL STABILITY, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, VOTE OF CONFIDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA04748
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770222-0943
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770633/aaaabcbz.tel
Line Count: 138
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4996e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ANKARA 4713
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2075982
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INITIAL PUBLIC REACTION TO ECEVIT GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4996e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009